

THE Baptist Record

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BRIEFS

U.S. ABORTION RATE REPORTED SINKING

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. abortion rate declined to an all-time low in 2014, the latest year for which statistics are available, while the number of the lethal procedures dropped below a million for the first time since 1975, according to a new report from the pro-abortion Guttmacher Institute. The rate in 2014 fell to 14.6 abortions per 1,000 women 15-44 years old — a decline of 14% since its most recent survey in 2011. The abortion rate in the U.S. reached its zenith in 1980 and 1981, at 29.3 abortions per 1,000 women 15-44 years old. The total number of abortions peaked at more than 1.6 million in 1990, according to Guttmacher.

TRANSGENDER WOMAN SUES

NEW JERSEY — Joseph Center for Health and Regeneration is facing a lawsuit for allegedly declining to remove the uterus of a transgender woman who wants to be anatomically male like a man. The woman brought suit under the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, because she said the medical center refused to remove her uterus on the grounds that doing so would violate Catholic teaching that God made people male and female. She had the procedure done at another hospital. Religiously-affiliated hospitals nationwide are facing similar pressure.

NOBTS RE-ACCREDITED FOR UPCOMING DECADE

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — The Southern Association of Colleges and School Commission on Colleges has reaffirmed New Orleans Seminary's accreditation for the next 10 years. SACSCOC is the regional body for accreditation of degree-granting higher education institutions in Louisiana and 10 other states. "This decision is a tribute to the excellent work of our faculty, the thoughtful oversight of our trustees, and the day-in and day-out effort of our staff," said seminary president Chuck Kelley.

William Carey hit hard by tornado

HATTIESBURG, Miss. (BP and local reports) — An EF3 tornado that ripped through southern Mississippi in the wee hours of the morning on Jan. 21 damaged nearly all of the 30 buildings on Baptist-affiliated William Carey University's main campus in Hattiesburg and struck at least three Mississippi Baptist churches in the area.

Seven William Carey University (WCU) students sustained non-life-threatening injuries. No fatalities were recorded on campus, but four people in a nearby neighborhood died from storm-related injuries. Preliminary damage assessments were not available by the Record's printing deadline.

Trinity Church, Petal; First Church, Petal; and New Testament Church, Hattiesburg, all cooperating member churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, suffered damage but



William Carey University main campus on Tuscan Avenue in Hattiesburg, Miss., after a large tornado struck before daylight on Jan. 21. No fatalities or life-threatening injuries were reported. (BP photo courtesy of WCU)

ter Kenner Task Force was immediately activated and dispatched to First Church, Petal, which will serve as the base of Baptist response and recovery operations, according to Don Gann, task force coordinator and director of men's ministry for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) in Jackson.

The task force's mass feeding unit deployed to that location and was serving meals by the evening of Jan. 21, Gann said. "Chainsaw teams are responding. Also, we are partnering with Pine Belt Association and First Church, Petal, to help the community."

Gann asked for prayer for storm victims and added, "This response will be long enough that everyone who wants to volunteer likely can work."

"The Pine Belt area has been overwhelmed by help from so many, but curious sightseers are hampering power crews and law enforcement from getting into areas affected because of roads clogged with traffic. Encourage your church not to just 'show up.' Ask them to contact the task force or a church in the area that they know can accommodate teams of volunteers."

For more information on the Mississippi Baptist response, contact the task force in the MBCB Men's Ministry Department at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.



CHURCH DAMAGED — Volunteers clean up around Trinity Church, Petal, and place temporary plastic sheeting on the roof of the building after the Mississippi Baptist church sustained significant damage from the Jan. 21 storm that also devastated Baptist-affiliated William Carey University in Hattiesburg. (Photo by Barri A. Shirley).

Telephone: (601) 292-3335 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 335. E-mail: dvail@mbcb.org.

WCU President Tommy King commended staff and students for their quick response to warnings about the approaching tornado.

"This illustrates the value of having a disaster plan in place," King told Hattiesburg American newspaper staff writer Ellen Ciurczak. "As soon as the alarm sounded, the housing staff got students downstairs into safe areas. They got a 5- to 10-minute warning before the tornado hit."

Jim Futral, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), wrote in his Directions column in the

Jan. 26 issue of The Baptist Record that touring the WCU campus made him realize "the school is not going to be able to open for weeks, or months, or maybe a year."

Still, Futral wrote, "With the strength of God, along with the love and help of His people, the families all around Petal and Hattiesburg, including the large family at William Carey University that has come from literally all four corners of the world, we will realize that God is with us, God is for us, and that God will deliver us."

WCU spokeswoman Mia Overton told Baptist Press, "The outpouring of support from not only here in Hattiesburg but also

see WCU on p. 4

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From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

Stormy waters

We live in a time of "emerging" churches, "satellite campuses," and "blended" worship services. Some churches have dropped "Baptist" from their names, and some now refer to Sunday School not as Sunday School but such things as "Life Groups." That is, if they haven't dropped Sunday School altogether in favor of small home meetings during the week.

"We don't have a worship service at my church any longer. We have an entertainment hour," lamented a Mississippi Baptist not long ago. "My pastor doesn't even bring his Bible to the pulpit on Sunday," said a Mississippi Baptist from the other side of the state. "All we hear are lectures on pop culture and feel-good, about-sinners, just-God-is-style messages." (Osteen is a popular TV preacher and author from a World of Faith background in Houston, Texas.)

It's safe to say that the Christian church has undergone a few changes over its 2,000-year history. The church has adapted to circumstances, good and bad. Some of those changes turned out well, and some were mistakes (to say the least). Many of the good ideas served a purpose and were retired after a very long, useful life. Many of the bad ideas have come and gone, too. Some of the good has stuck around, as has some of the bad.

The point is that while all change is not good, change is not equally bad, either. In some of the examples above, people have taken change too far in an effort to respond to cultural pressures they are apparently feeling. Such cultural pressure is not isolated to Mississippi Baptists or Southern Baptists.

The Episcopal Church in America, for another example, decided a few years ago to condone and openly support the elevation of minister Eugene Robinson, a practicing homosexual with a live-in lover, to lead the Diocese of New Hampshire. Many of the member denominations of the worldwide Anglican Communion, of which

the Episcopal Church in America is a member, have condemned that decision but the Episcopal Church in America has been steadfast in its decision to bend to cultural pressure in this important area of our mutual Christian witness.

Since then, Episcopalians have opened wide their doors to virtually anyone, regardless of biblical strictures, by claiming themselves to be an "affirming church." Not to pick on Episcopalians, but there is a cautionary narrative for Southern Baptists and Mississippi Baptists.

These are stormy waters we are presently attempting to navigate. It would be easy to simply say change is good — because it often is — but we must in all things guard against the watering down of the central message of our faith for the sake of change. Namely, that a loving and just God chose to reveal Himself through His Son Jesus Christ, so that all who believe can be saved and enjoy eternal life with Him in Heaven (John 3:16).

There are manifold ways to deliver that simple message to a lost world. The problem is that too many of us have gone too far afield, complicating and even adulterating the message in a compromise to get people in the door.

There's nothing wrong with conducting a Saturday evening worship service, if it is wrong to tell people there may indeed be sweeties open to God other than a profession of faith in Jesus Christ. There's nothing wrong with drums and electric guitars in church, but it is wrong to say that sin and the eternal damnation sin brings are out-moded or discredited concepts.

The lists and the arguments about the lists could go on and on, but one point we must never forget in our rush to contemporize all things religious: Hell is hot. Heaven is sweet, and Jesus saves.

Let's make sure a lost world hears that message loud and clear, both by our words and deeds. The rest will take care of itself.

Gift of Forgiveness

Forgiveness is not a natural response when we have been wronged or hurt in some way. Forgiveness is a supernatural gift from God. Truly, it is easier to talk and write about forgiveness than it is to put it into practice. Experiencing and giving forgiveness is the pathway to freedom. Let's reflect on five reasons we need to practice forgiveness in our daily lives.

■ When we forgive, we are more like God than at any other time.

The disciple Jesus asked Jesus how many times he must forgive others. Jesus told Peter to forgive not seven times, but seven times seventy. We must realize forgiveness is meant to be a limitless practice in our lives. This is our challenge and privilege, for in the same way we have been forgiven by Christ, we ought to forgive others. Think of the sweet words Jesus said as He was nailed upon the cross: "Father, forgive them. They know not what they do."

■ When we forgive, we are obeying the teachings of God's Word. In Matthew 5: 11-12, Jesus said, "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you." Later, in Matthew 5:43-44, Jesus encourages us with these words, "You have heard that it was said to love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I tell you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." Ephesians 4:32 says, "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

■ When we forgive, our prayer life becomes more effective and powerful. We must pray the words found in the Model Prayer: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Our Lord said if we want to be forgiven, we must first forgive. As we ask God to forgive us of our sins, God will begin to work in our spirit and enable us to forgive those who sin against us. What a challenge for us as people of the Lord. When someone does wrong towards us, do not curse it or rehearse it to others. Do not nurse it in self-pity. Instead, dispense it to God and reverse it in prayer. Prayer is the key to opening the floodgates of His forgiveness.

■ When we forgive, our church family begins to understand the



Softer Side

with Cindy Townsend

importance of resolving difficult conflicts in a Christ-honoring way. Just because we are in the right when our brother and/or sister have wronged us, we are not given the right to do whatever we please to prove our "rightness." Our goal is to be forgiving and redemptive so that reconciliation can occur. The body of Christ can actually be strengthened and not hurt by our actions if our goal is to honor Him. Let us agree to disagree in a gracious way. Let us vow to put the interests of Christ above our own. May we uphold His name in the midst of our conflicts and be a bold positive testimony to our community.

■ When we forgive, we will win more of the lost to Jesus. We will never win lost people to Christ with a hard heart and a hostile spirit. We need a tender, compassionate, and forgiving heart to lead others to a saving faith in Jesus.

We read in Matthew 18 what happened to the man who did not choose to forgive. The one who did not practice forgiveness was sent by the king to the tormentors. The tormentors came back time and time again and harassed him. Those of us who do not forgive will also be faced with tormentors. The tormentors may come to us in the form of sickness, depression, weaknesses, guilt, and even mental anxiety. Why would we put ourselves in such torment when God's forgiveness brings complete freedom and peace?

Let us choose to live with a heart that is tender towards the things of God, with a mind to think as God thinks and relationships filled with God's compassion, love, and forgiveness.

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BAPTISTS

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Once an atheist, now a pastor's wife

SEVIERVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — At the time she met her future husband Jason Bowen, now pastor of First Church in Trenton, Tn., Tiffany was a self-professed "atheist, feminist bartender."

She was working her way through the University of Tennessee in Knoxville when she met Jason, then a self-described "lukewarm" Christian who was working at the same restaurant. He asked her out three times before she agreed and it was only going to be for one hour, she recalled.

The one-hour date lasted much longer than that, and the next day she told her stepmother she had met her future husband.

"I had never met someone so transparent and genuine," Tiffany recalled.

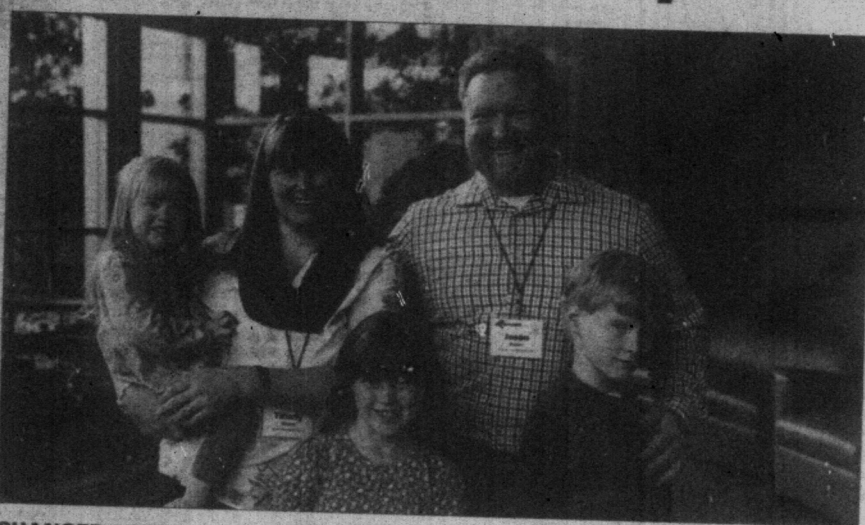
Not long after they began dating, Tiffany met Jason's mother Charlotte Bowen, a Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionary nurse who had to travel to Knoxville with a pastor who had been injured in an accident.

"When I met with her face to face I was overwhelmed with how she was not like anyone I had ever met," Tiffany said. "She had no judgment in her heart. She was not OK with me being an atheist, but the love she showed to me was no different than had I been a Christian."

The two women developed a relationship that continued after Charlotte returned to Africa. Via e-mail, Tiffany kept asking questions and Charlotte would answer them honestly, she recalled.

Tiffany noted that her future mother-in-law explained, "Jesus was alive and that was what made her different because she had a real, personal relationship with Him every day."

Though she was an atheist, Tiffany had Christian friends and had even attended church despite being raised in a home where going to church was discouraged. She knew the Chris-



CHANGED LIVES — Jason and Tiffany Bowen of Trenton, Tn., pose with their children (from left) Evangeline, Charlotte Jean, and Samuel. Jason Bowen is pastor of First Church in Trenton, Tn. Tiffany was previously an avowed atheist. (BP photo)

tian language. "I may have heard the same words from other people, but I never understood that Jesus was alive until I met someone like [my mother-in-law]. He was obviously alive in her."

Tiffany began to read the Bible, "and my heart started to change," she recalled. She was sitting in the parking lot of a Knoxville business talking with Jason when God suddenly revealed to her that He was real and alive and that He "would be the Lord of my life for the rest of my life."

Tiffany said she looked over at Jason and said, "Jesus is the Son of God," and then told him, "I think I just got saved."

Later, the couple was married in Africa while visiting Jason's mother. They returned to his hometown of Jonesboro, Ar., to live after their wedding, and began attending Central Church where Tiffany was baptized. She recalled they were disciplined well by the church.

After attending the church for about a year, Jason was asked to do pulpit supply at an inner city church. He was asked to come back and he did — for about two years. "After the first year I felt God was asking me to pray for my husband because he was going to surrender to His call to be a pastor," Tiffany said.

She added that she believes God was giving her a "heads up" so she could also pray for herself. "I was not pastor's wife material," she said with a laugh. Sixteen years later, which have included seminary training for Jason and other pastorates, she admitted, "I'm still not but I pray every day that He uses me anyway."

Tiffany noted that the willingness of both her and her husband to be transparent about their pasts has helped their ministry in the churches where they have served. They openly tell their congregation, "God uses us because of His

great grace, not because of our perfection..."

"I don't hesitate to share my testimony so people will understand God's grace and forgiveness of my sins wasn't because I had forgivable sins. It was because His grace is sufficient to cover the sins of someone who denied Him for 21 years of her life and tried to convince others to deny Him as well."

Tiffany said she fully understands what the Apostle Paul said when he referred to himself as the "chief of all sinners." Like Paul, she knows she had a Damascus Road experience. Tiffany remains grateful that Jason never gave up on her after she twice turned him down for a date.

"He saw what was in my heart, not what I wanted people to see," she said.

Tiffany is more than willing to share her story anywhere, anytime. "If it brings God glory, then I'm an open book."

WITNESSING TO ATHEISTS

SEVIERVILLE, Tn. (BP) — As a former atheist, Tiffany Bowen knows the language of those who deny the existence of God. She lived it for 21 years before she was saved by God's grace and mercy. "Atheists know the truth," she said. "They just don't understand the truth."

She noted most atheists at one time or another had a bitter experience either with the church in general or individual Christians. "We need to help atheists have a non-bitter experience," she stressed.

Now the wife of Jason Bowen, pastor of First Church in Trenton, Tn., Tiffany shares five tips on how to witness effectively to atheists:

■ Go to them free of a judging spirit.

■ Be genuinely invested in them as a person.

■ Know the hope that is in you and genuinely know which Scriptures give you your hope. "For me, I use Romans 10:9 because that's what happened to me: I believed in my heart and confessed with my mouth."

■ Understand that anyone who has never been given forgiveness does not understand what the word means. The same goes for words such as grace, compassion, and love. "You have to demonstrate what those words mean." That's what her future mother-in-law did for her, she said.

■ Don't lose heart. "It's not our job to change someone's heart. It's merely our job to be transparent and steadfast with the truth. God will do the rest."

Wicker bill permanently ends taxpayer-funded abortions

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Special) — U.S. Senator Roger Wicker of Mississippi is one of three lawmakers who have introduced the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act to establish a permanent, government-wide prohibition of taxpayer funding for abortions.

Wicker, a Republican, joined Senators Pat Roberts (R-Kn.) and Deb Fischer (R-Né.), in introducing Senate Bill 184. Mississippi's senior U.S. Senator, Republican Thad Cochran, is listed as a co-sponsor.

Similar policies currently in effect that prohibit taxpayer funding of abortions, such as the Hyde Amendment, require annual passage and do not apply to Obamacare. If passed by the U.S. Congress and signed into law by U.S. President Donald Trump, S. 184 would address those issues.

The legislation also includes a provision requiring all plans offered by Obamacare exchanges to publicly disclose whether the plans include coverage of elective

abortion procedures and the abortion surcharge embedded into abortion-covering plans.

"Taxpayer money should not be used to fund a procedure that so many Americans find morally objectionable," said Wicker, a member and former deacon chairman at First Church, Tupelo. "The time is ripe for us to enact a permanent solution that protects American taxpayers from funding abortions."

"This bill would establish these protections, in addition

to making sure that people are notified if they have selected an abortion-covering health-care plan under Obamacare. Until we are able to undo these harmful health-care policies, transparency of the plans is critical."

The bill is the Senate companion to House Resolution 7 in the U.S. House of Representatives, authored by Congressmen Chris Smith (R-N.J.) and Dan Lipinski (D-Ill.).

In 2014, the latest year for which statistics are avail-

able, the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office issued a report showing that taxpayer dollars paid for more than 1,000 health insurance plans that included elective abortion.

The bill is supported by pro-life groups such as National Right to Life, Family Research Council, Susan B. Anthony List, Americans United for Life, March for Life, and U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, among others.

I hadn't intended to spend my Saturday when, where, and how I did on January 21, but most of the people I saw throughout the day, hadn't intended to spend their January 21 the way they did either. A tornado hit Hattiesburg and upward toward Petal during the early morning hours. A swath that covered about 15-20 miles of twisted broken trees or destroyed homes. Not just homes, but businesses, churches, schools, fire departments, and William Carey University.

When I arrived near the campus of William Carey, I parked several blocks away because it was as close as you could get to the campus, for no one was being allowed to come in. They couldn't get through the debris in their cars. As I made my way through all the brokenness and pieces of life out in the street, I passed businesses that were in shambles, churches that could not be used, homes that no longer existed, and some that were at least holding together enough that they were trying to pick up pieces and push them back in place. I passed people who were just standing out front of their homes in total disbelief and despair. Others who were going to their neighbors because their place seemed to be intact and they were trying to see what they could do to help someone else. I stopped along the way and visited with some of the folks. Most of them, even the ones who had lost what appeared to be virtually everything, said, "I am so blessed to be here."

When I arrived on campus, I soon met up with the president of William Carey University, Dr. Tommy King. After talking for a brief time, we began to take a tour of the entire campus seeing destruction in every direction. There were students all around trying to get their things together and find somewhere to go and stay as they



With Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

A Journey through Destruction

contemplated what the next step in life was going to be. It does not take long to realize that school is not going to be open for weeks or months or maybe a year. Almost immediately, Dr. King said to me that we had a few students who were injured but none life threatening and only one in the hospital and no deaths to our university family.

Not too far away from the campus in a residential area, four people had been killed, but when you saw the entire area, you would wonder how in the world did we get through this storm without hundreds of deaths. Truly, many, many people were saying that they were blessed to be alive. Although it is amazing to see and wonder how families could survive the terrible destruction of homes and school, it was equally moving to see the thousands of people who responded to do whatever needed to be done to help the folks who were caught in the storm.

People with chainsaws and rakes and just a kind word, an offer of what can I do to help you, was everywhere around the entire area. Little clusters of students or families gathered simply to pray. While we in Mississippi and for the folks around Hattiesburg, we have seen plenty of storms through the years, but simply because they are numerous and frequent does not make the next one look any better and certainly is not any easier to deal with.

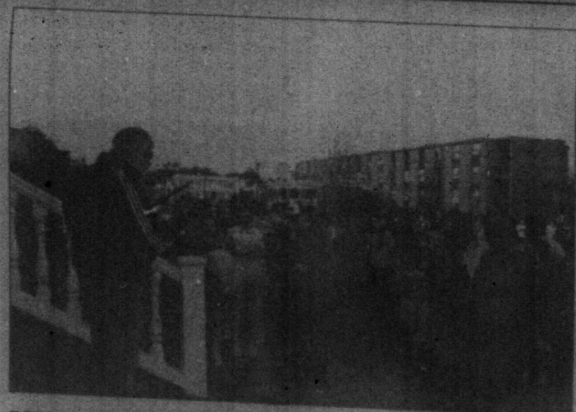
While any gifts that you could send will be used to help with the disaster relief efforts throughout the area where the storm hit, there are enormous and special needs related to the university. William Carey University is a family of thousands made up of students, their families, faculty and staff, administration, and even alumni. The buildings being fixed, restored, or in some cases having to be taken down, are vitally important, but

they are not as important as the people who are a part of the university family. Young people who are preparing their lives for missions and ministry, service and teaching. Some who are in medical school at William Carey; others who are working on masters programs and now all of them having to figure out where do we go from here.

As Dr. King and I toured the campus together, one of the most moving experiences for me and I think for him was related to the chapel on the campus there at Carey. It is a beautiful chapel that has only been there for a few years, and it was virtually destroyed. But, while one of the end walls is gone and the front of the chapel is gone and inside there was a pulpit Bible and it was open as though it had not even been touched. It was opened to Psalm 46. Now for anyone who has studied the Psalms and loves the Psalms, Psalm 46 always finds its way into your heart to be one of the favorites. Why? Well, listen to it, and you will understand.

Psalm 46:1 (NKJV), "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." The trouble was real last Saturday and will continue for the foreseeable future. Yet, the sense and the presence and strength of God with us was and is an even greater reality. Facing the future, the opening phrase of verse 2 states, "Therefore we will not fear." With the strength of God, along with the love and help of His people, the families all around Petal and Hattiesburg, including the large family at William Carey University that has come from literally all four corners of the world, will realize that God is with us, God is for us, and that God will deliver us.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.



REMEMBERING TO PRAY—Tim Glaze (on steps, facing crowd), Baptist Student Union director at William Carey University (WCU) in Hattiesburg, leads an impromptu prayer meeting among the debris on the WCU campus after the Baptist-affiliated school was slammed by a tornado on Jan. 21. (Photo by Davi Farie)

KEYBOARD FEST DELAYED

The Area Keyboard Festival that was to be held at Petal-Harvey Church, Petal, on January 28 has been postponed due to heavy storm damage in the vicinity. The festival has been rescheduled for February 23, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Petal-Harvey Church.

For more information, contact Wyndy South in the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530; Telephone: (601) 292-3272 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1851, ext. 272. E-mail: wsouth@mbcb.org.

WCU

cont. from p. 1

around the state and out of state has just been tremendous. Although the William Carey University campus is closed, the university is open and we are doing everything we can to continue operations.

The tornado was among a line of storms to hit the Southeast Saturday and Sunday, killing at least 19 people and leaving damage from Mississippi to Georgia, according to media reports.

While there were no deaths on the William Carey campus, the injured included a member of the women's soccer team who lost three fingers when a door slammed on her hand, Overton said. A separate group of students was returning to campus as the storm struck, and it lifted their car off the ground, she said.

The Jackson Clarion-Ledger newspaper reported that three first-year medical students studying in the Medical Arts Building on campus found themselves "surrounded by rubble." In another building, a professor was in his third-floor office when much of the roof detached.

Four buildings may have to be demolished and replaced including Tatum Court, the "iconic" building in the center of campus erected in 1914, Overton said. The university "would like to try to save [Tatum Court] if at

all possible, but we don't know if that's going to be feasible."

Also facing potential demolition are two dormitories and the building housing the School of Business, Overton said. The Clarion-Ledger reported damage to most of the vehicles on campus and a "gaping hole" in Green Science Hall.

Lloyd Lunceford, MBCB director of collegiate ministry, said the Baptist Student Union (BSU) building on the WCU campus received slight damage and is in the process of being assessed. He said members of the Carey BSU have been meeting with members of the BSU at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM), which is also in Hattiesburg.

Of WCU's approximately 4,400 students, 800 live on the Hattiesburg campus, Overton said, noting many had gone home for the weekend. There is no estimate on how many people were on campus when the storm hit.

Campus residents who were unable to go home have been moved to temporary housing at USM. Coincidentally, USM was heavily damaged by an EF4 tornado on February 10, 2013.

In an effort to complete the WCU winter trimester, online classes are continuing as scheduled and many traditional classes will move online, Overton said. Courses like science labs that cannot move online

may meet at USM or Pearl River Community College south of Hattiesburg down U.S. Highway 11 in Poplarville.

Students' immediate physical needs have been met, Overton said. Continuing relief efforts will focus on repairing the campus and helping students with expenses like lost textbooks and computers.

"The safety of our students and faculty and staff remains the top priority," Overton said.

Individuals and churches are encouraged to support the overall relief efforts by giving through MBCB (designate the check for Miss. Baptist Disaster Relief). For those wishing to earmark a donation for WCU, they may still send it through MBCB (designated for WCU Relief).

Donations are being received on-line at www.mbc.org or at MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Alternatively, WCU support may be sent directly to the university at WCU, 498 Tuscan Ave., Hattiesburg, MS 39401 (designated "Disaster Fund").

In-kind donations such as non-perishable food, shoes, clothing, and gift cards are currently not being accepted through MBCB.

The Mississippi Disaster Relief Task Force is supported by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program, the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering, and donations.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

January 26, 2017

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

January 27 – February 9, 2017

You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13 (ESV)

Pray for: **Karen Brown**, missionary ministering to American Peoples through nursing.

Pray for: **Matthew Burke**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through general evangelism.

Pray for: **Rebekah Clark**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through youth evangelism.

Pray for: **Cindy DeMars**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Guy DeMars**, missionary ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through hospitality coordination.

Pray for: **David & Laurie Blodoo**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Kaye Brooks**, missionary ministering to American Peoples through church planting.

Pray for: **Shella Flowers**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through administration.

Pray for: **Clarence Frank & Phoebe Harrison**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples.

Pray for: **Kenneth & Kimberly Hathcock**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Earl & Ramona Hewitt**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through medicine, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Cynthia Hodgins**, missionary ministering to Deaf Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Thomas & Kerri Dewett**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Aaron & Tiffany Epps**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church/outreach & evangelism.

The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

D/FM UPCOMING EVENTS

MBCB CONNECT CAMPS 2017 PRESENTS

STAGES

Central Hills Baptist Retreat

Registration begins Feb. 1 @ www.mbc.org

Session I - June 5 - 8 | Session II - June 8 - 11 | Session III - June 13 - 16

For Questions Contact: Tasha Presson at 601-292-3284 or tpresson@mbcb.org

State Speakers' Tournament

Saturday, April 8 - Parkway Baptist Church, Clinton
Registration - 10:00 a.m.

**Speeches due to the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department by Tuesday, March 28, 2017. **

Discipleship and Family Ministry Department
601-292-3284 - tpresson@mbcb.org



WORKSHOPS & AWARDS BANQUET

March 3 & 4

Crossgates Baptist Church, Brandon

Awards Banquet on Friday, March 3, 6-9 p.m.

Many categories are available for entry!

Visit mbcb.org/witnessing-through-media or contact Communication Services at 601-292-3378 for info.

The following is a listing of contributions made to the Lord's work which were received by the business office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Received from January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016. An "A" denotes a gift from the association. If you have any questions about the amounts reported for your church, please contact the business office at 601-566-3300 or 1-800-748-1651. Thank you.

ALCORN			
ANTROCH	12,358.62	18,100.39	30,459.21
BETH JEAN	5,336.30	8,100.39	

BEAR CREEK	1,472.00	1,102.00	2,574.00
BEREA	2,616.69	4,762.16	7,378.85

ASHLAND	8,818.41	2,298.00	2,298.00
ACADAMY	10,021.74	10,021.74	18,839.15
ASSOCIATION			
TIFFANY			

YOUNG ASSOCIATION	160.00	160.00
INTOUCH	7,500.00	5,500.00
LAUREL		13,000.00

OWNERS	300,918.57	121,967.32	631,905.89
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LAUREL	5,361.27	200.00	200.00
ROCKFORD	6,041.61		11,402.83
ROCKFORD	71,750.48		108,546.34
ROCKFORD	1,571.81	280.00	1,851.81

AMITY	4,902.24	2,203.00	7,111.24
ARBOR CRANE	8,499.00	11,170.91	19,659.91
BETHLE	5,577.60		

VICTORY	5,793.29	4,708.16	10,501.95
WEB	12,302.47	10,556.02	22,859.29
WOOD SPRINGS		400.00	400.00
TOTAL	18,095.76	15,664.18	33,759.94

SOLOVITA	14,702.40	1,866.46	16,568.86
SOLOVITA	8,118.00	2,444.00	10,562.00
SOLOVITA	10,629.07	1,739.50	12,368.57
SOLOVITA	11,275.30	1,812.32	13,087.62

KAYDEN	41,392.97	41,001.39	22,794.36
SPRING HILL	6,761.00	15,406.00	22,167.00
FAIR OAK	2,110.00	1,754.35	3,063.35
SUNNY			

254,716.65	235,963.58	490,180.23
NET DAYS		

ASPILO	411.1	175.00	616.32
THANY	9,250.00	6,901.34	16,786.34
ALHOUN	12,447.11	10,408.45	22,055.56
	1,295.55	1,002.20	6,000.00

SOCIETY HILL	2,365.16	7,620.62	9,985.78
UNION NORTH	50.00	1,200.00	1,250.00
UNION SOUTH	14,400.00	9,140.00	23,540.00

AVRA	\$2.70	161.80	404.50
BARTON	51,238.10	14,092.08	65,130.18
CEDAR GROVE	23,249.65	15,959.09	39,208.74
COVENANT	2,400.00	1,644.00	7,044.00

BETHESDA	2,810.00	2,810.00	2,810.00
BORDER SPRINGS	4,812.49	1,000.00	5,812.49
CALVARY COLUMBUS	15,558.07	10,235.00	25,793.07
CALVARY COLUMBUS	13,314.00	5,775.00	19,089.00
CALVARY STARBUCK	41,466.00	23,475.00	64,941.00

PLASANT RIDGE	2,957.30	2,128.72	5,286.02
PLYMOUTH	1,038.93		1,038.93
INVERSA CHAPEL	11,671.59	2,112.00	15,283.59

SALES	3,624.91	4,081.00	7,765.90
WILCOX	600.00	600.00	1,200.00
WOOD	75,647.14	47,328.80	122,976.01
	2,430.00	1,493.74	3,923.74

ACE CHAPEL	1,576.54		1,576.54
ACE MEMORIAL	32,531.58	34,054.28	66,585.86
ACE TEMPLE	800.00		800.00

SUCCESS	1,162.61	7,545.51	8,708.12
TRINITY	1,200.00	1,750.00	2,950.00
TUO CHINA	3,664.97	325.00	3,989.97
WATSON STREET	325.00		

FLUMPHREYS Total	83,047.38	52,973.23	136,020.61
ITAWAMBA			

FBC HELENA	9,169.00	13,747.00	22,916.00
FBC MOSS POINT	16,238.38	26,583.65	42,822.03
FBC OCEAN SPRINGS	20,005.96	5,962.42	25,968.38
FBC PASCAGOULA	108,075.20	95,430.90	203,506.10

HEILBERG	9,630.31	3,176.00	12,806.31
LAKE CONRO	5,859.31	5,090.00	10,949.31
LIBERTY	5,004.45	8,657.93	13,662.38
LYNN	1,200.00	1,863.33	3,063.33

LOWERY CREEK	52,719.29	7,037.77	59,757.06
MACNOLA	4,326.77	4,052.05	8,378.82
MONTE MEMORIAL	15,465.04	11,787.29	27,252.33
	35,264.00	22,877.11	58,141.11

NEW HOPE	7,123.99	3,310.65	10,434.64
OAKLAND GROW	2,539.89	432.00	2,971.89
PATHWAY (TOMMY HILTY)	10,982.05	1,556.00	12,538.05

[illegible]

[illegible]



When I was a child, we played a game called Monopoly. The object of the game was to take all the other players' money. When the "winner" had all the money and all the other players were broke, the game was over. Monopoly was just a game and the money was play money. If our elected leadership in Mississippi institutes a state lottery, it will not be a game and there will be no winners.

I believe in capitalism and am not a redistributionist, but I also believe it is unwise to balance the state budget on the backs of those citizens who can least afford to waste spendable income — often needed for milk, bread, and blue jeans. If a rich person or even blue collar person wants to waste his money on a lottery ticket, that's one thing but too

Don't Gamble on a Lottery

high a percentage of those who gamble on a long-shot lottery jackpot cannot afford to waste hard-earned money needed by their families.

I know buying a lottery ticket is voluntary, but a state lottery makes gambling more available, not less available, and gambling is a growing problem in our nation and state. It is a form of addiction for some which can devastate their marriage, family, and home. We should not enable more and more to suffer from this life-controlling problem.

A lottery is bad for business. Millions of dollars that would have been spent in businesses, restaurants, stores, etc., are

taken out of the economy. A dollar spent on the lottery is a dollar that cannot be spent in the local economy. Just as casinos shut down many family-owned small businesses on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and throughout our state, a lottery will do the same. Legitimate tax revenue will decline.

If 100% of the lottery money went to a good cause, I would still be against it for the above reasons. Too much of the lottery money is middle-money, and too little of the money gets to the problems. Many profit from the business side of a lottery. "Administrative" costs are too high. If you charge \$5 to enter a state park, too much of

the \$5 goes to the gate keeper. It is the same with a lottery.

In the early seventies, I was in a lottery — for the military draft. We were told the first 120 birthdates would be drafted, the last 120 would be safe, and the middle 120 would be up for grabs. My birthdate was drawn number 52 in that lottery, but U.S. President Richard Nixon shut down the Vietnam War. At least in that lottery there were more winners than losers. Not so in a state lottery.

If our state economy is supposedly doing so great, why is there such a need for additional gambling revenue? If gambling revenue is the cure-all

for the financial problems of our state, why haven't the casinos solved all our problems? After a few years of the lottery, what's next to raise revenue?

If all fifty states put all their rainy-day fund money in one pot and drew out one winner, how would the other forty-nine states feel about a lottery? The answer for any revenue problems for our state is not to play Monopoly or the lottery. This is not a game; we're talking real life. If I cannot balance my personal budget, I will not buy a lottery ticket. I will cut my expenses and look for additional work.

If your outgo exceeds your income, then your upkeep will be your downfall.

Please pray for our elected officials that they will have the courage and wisdom to do the right thing, but also let them know how you feel. Voters rule the day.

If I can be of help to you, your church, or association, contact me at the Christian Action Commission. We want to be available.

Digby is executive director-treasurer of the Christian Action Commission. He can be reached at (601) 292-3329/office, (662) 284-9163/cell, or by e-mail at kdigby@christianaction.com.

MS POSITIONS

NEW LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH FLORENCE, MS IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL WORSHIP LEADER. Please send Resume to Worship Search Committee P.O. box 1882 Florence, Ms 39073 or Email to Preacher7248@gmail.com.

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Truth is not relative.

Find it in the One who is the way, truth, and life.

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life.

From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Tell Me evangelism rallies off to good start

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

The Tell Me rallies, part of the 2017 Tell Me, Tell Someone evangelism emphasis at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board — started rolling out across the state last week.

The first week's stops included Forest, Decatur, Philadelphia, and Carthage on January 17, and Wiggins, Gulfport, and Bay St. Louis on January 19. Every county in Mississippi will experience at least one Tell Me rally before the campaign concludes on March 30 in Adams County.

Each of the first-week rallies followed a similar pattern, although each had its own distinctives too. For example, the Decatur rally was held around tables in the assembly room of the Baptist Student Union at East Central Community College. The Philadelphia rally was in a city park. In Carthage, the rally was on the steps of the courthouse in a drizzling rain.

The rallies feature music, prayers, comments from the local area's associational missions director, and a special message from Jim Futral, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The simple strategy for the Tell Me, Tell Someone campaign can be found in the banner title, "Tell Someone ... what Jesus has done for you." The theme includes a call for each participant to commit to pray daily for:

- Three lost friends coming to Christ.
- Learning one spiritual conversation.
- Inviting five unchurched people to their small group.
- Share the Gospel at least one time during the campaign.

This translates into an easy to remember slogan, "3-1-5-1." Futral, who tailors a unique message for each event, explains the strategy at every rally and asks participants fill out a card highlighting each one of the steps by listing names of people to whom they'll reach out.

"The cards are kept as a reminder by participants, each of whom also receives the gift of a lapel pin etched with the 3-1-5-1 slogan along with icons illustrating each step. The pins are intended to be used as conversation starters.

Futral said, "Although we are still in the early stages of the Tell Me rallies, we have already been to north and south, east and west Mississippi and have been thrilled with the attendance, interest, participation, and then the follow-up from the rallies.

"I am so appreciative of our associational missions directors and the great efforts that they have put forward to make these rallies meaningful and successful. They, along with wonderful pastoral participation and their encouragement of their people to

come, have made every one of the gatherings so far a special event.

The point of the whole effort is to share the wonderful message of the living, life-giving Christ. Knowing that people are working and consumed with personal needs and the other distractions of life, for them to give an hour to think about what they can do to be a part of reaching a world for Christ, is incredible.

"Some of the rallies are early morning, others at the noon-time, others in the afternoon, and some at night, but the people have come. They not only attend, they bring a spirit of anticipation

and desire to see God work in their lives and in their churches and in our great state.

"Many people are praying for these rallies and I can only say that their prayers are being answered, for time and again the Lord seems to have shown up and manifested His love and presence among us. We press on and look forward to what God has in store for us in the weeks and months ahead."

The Tell Me rallies and the 2017 evangelism emphasis are supported by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program. For more information, visit mbcb.org.

UPCOMING TELL ME RALLIES!

DATE	TIME	COUNTY	LOCATION
Jan. 26	10 a.m.	Bolivar	Bolivar County Courthouse
Jan. 26	noon	Sunflower	First Church Indianola
Jan. 26	2 p.m.	Lefflore	Veterans Memorial Park Gazebo
Jan. 27	7 p.m.	Jackson	First Church Gautier
Jan. 31	9 a.m.	Simpson	Alice Davis Park
Jan. 31	7 p.m.	Lawrence/Walthall/Marion	Bethel Church
Feb. 2	9 a.m.	Madison	Canton Square
Feb. 2	11 a.m.	Hinds	Hinds Comm. College Fountain Hall
Feb. 2	2 p.m.	Hinds	MS Agriculture and Forestry Museum
Feb. 2	7 p.m.	Rankin	First Church Brandon
Feb. 6	6:30 p.m.	George-Greene	Shady Grove Church
Feb. 9	10 a.m.	Montgomery	Montgomery County Courthouse
Feb. 9	noon	Carroll (Carrollton)	Carroll County Courthouse
Feb. 9	2 p.m.	Carroll (Vaiden)	Carroll County Courthouse
Feb. 9	6:30 p.m.	Chickasaw	Parkway Church Houston



WET BUT WILLING — Participants at the Tell Me rally at the Leake County Courthouse in Carthage on Jan. 17 brave the elements to fill out the campaign's participant cards that will help remind them to fulfill the "3-1-5-1" part of the 2017 Mississippi Baptist Convention Board evangelism emphasis titled, Tell Me, Tell Someone. They were rewarded with a perfect view of a full rainbow. (Photo by Tony Martin)

BIBL i O C I P H E R

C MDXSKWCLN QYKSWM, KSW RCMHE

SYKS VCK PVC RV KSWW; TLK D SYAW

PVC RV KSWW, YVE KSWNW SYAW

PVC RV KSYK KSCL SYNK NWVK BW.

OCSV NWA VVKWWV: KRWVKI-QDAW

Clue: P = K

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke 21:34

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

Just for the Record

- Lorena Church, Smith County, will host a 5th Sunday night sing Jan. 29, 6 p.m.
- Weir Church, Weir, will be hosting Oneway Quartet Jan. 29, 11 a.m. Love offering.
- First Church, Lexington, is hosting Paul's Journey in concert Jan. 28, 6 p.m.

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Willing Servants • Judges 4:4-10, 12-16

I am thrilled to share an incredible story that is embedded deep in the history of Mississippi Baptists. Around 1791, while this area was still under Spanish rule, Richard Curtis and other preachers made their first trip from South Carolina to Mississippi. Their purpose was to preach the Gospel. When the Spaniards heard of Curtis' preaching, they conducted a manhunt. Curtis and his fellow preachers were forced into hiding. They needed to return to South Carolina but had no provisions for the trip. The men in the area were too scared to take provisions to Curtis. This crisis threatened to end their work. However, Chloe Holt, stirred by God, came out of the crowd and said, "If the men are too faint-hearted to go, saddle me a horse and I'll go; and the Spaniards may catch me if they can." She put on men's clothing, climbed on the horse, and under threat of imprisonment or death, delivered the much-needed provisions to Curtis and his men. In 1798, with the Spaniards no longer in power, Richard Curtis, his wife, and others returned to Mississippi. God restored His people to freedom using a faithful and willing servant. Join me as we consider another faithful and willing servant - Deborah.

The book of Judges takes us from the death of Joshua up to Samuel. Though the author is not named, tradition cites Samuel as the author. During this time, the Israelites repeated the cycle of rebellion over and over again. In each

case we read the words, "And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord." And each time God raised up a judge to point the Israelites back to Him. Judges often ruled over different areas and their times of service overlapped. However, Deborah was a national leader of Israel. She was also wife of Lapidoth, prophetess and military leader. God raised up Deborah because the Israelites disobeyed God and He "sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan who reigned in Hazor" (Judges 4:2, NKJV).

An Update Requested - Judges 4:4-7

We are not privy to God's initial command to mobilize the Israelite forces at Mount Tabor. Instead, we step into the story as Deborah summoned Barak for an update as to why he had not obeyed. God already had promised victory against Jabin's army commander Sisera, but Barak had not moved.

A Deal Struck - Judges 4:8-10

Barak explained that he would deploy if Deborah accompanied him. He

said, "If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go!" (v. 8). Deborah agreed, reminding Barak that he would not be honored as the victor because of his timid response. She said, "I will surely go with you; nevertheless there will be no glory for you in the journey you are taking, for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman" (v. 9). Then Deborah accompanied Barak and the army to Mount Tabor.

The Orders Issued - Judges 4:12-14

Sisera was informed of Barak's troops assembling so he summoned his men to face Barak. Deborah remind-

ed Barak of God's promise and then directed him to engage with Sisera's army. Barak led the army of ten thousand men down Mount Tabor to fight against Sisera's nine hundred chariots of iron.

The Victory Won - Judges 4:15-16

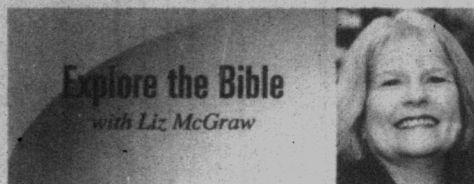
God caused Sisera's army to become confused, and the warriors abandoned their chariots. Barak and his troops

pursued Sisera's army until "not a man was left" (v. 16). The story concludes with Sisera's death. He was hiding in a tent when "Jael, Heber's wife, took a tent peg and...a hammer...and drove the peg into his temple" (v. 21).

God uses faithful and willing servants. Godly leaders, both male and female, are expected to follow God's commands and directives. We are blessed to have godly female examples, like Deborah and Jael, in the Bible; and our history as Baptists may have ended without God's intervention through Chloe Holt. Today, we are blessed with female leaders in ministry throughout Mississippi. They serve in volunteer and paid positions. Some work full-time and others part-time. They serve as ministers of preschool, children, youth, family, music, administration, education, discipleship, women, and as teachers and WMU leaders. Why not take a moment to thank them for being faithful and willing servants and to encourage them in their ministries?

*Special thanks to the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission for providing information about Richard Curtis and Chloe Holt.

McGraw is development director of Crossroads SW Counseling Center, a conference speaker, life coach, and member of Woodville Church.



Sharing with Joy • Philippians 1:12-21

Today's lesson is on sharing the real joy that Paul exhibits and explains here in the first chapter of Philippians. Remember, H. I. Hester told us the Book of Philippians is Paul's most informal, intimate and revealing epistle. The Heart of the New Testament called this letter "a spontaneous expression of love and gratitude." "Though it was written from prison amid depressing circumstances it rings with joy, confidence, faith and hope." Our challenge during this study is to grow in our understanding of how and why Paul had such real joy while a prisoner chained to a guard in the Roman prison.

Paul wrote "Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has actually resulted in the advance of the gospel." Philippians 1:12 (HCSB). The Apostle Paul's greatest desire was to share the Gospel of Jesus the Christ. Anything that advanced this Gospel brought him real deep "Joy." Sharing this Gospel was such a deep desire of Paul's heart that he knew real joy when God used him in any way, at any cost. Actually, when Paul arrived at Rome in chains it was the successful completion of a plan that he was convinced that God had given. For Paul, a proud Roman Citizen, it was a lifelong dream to get to the City of Rome. This dream had

seemed impossible until God lead the Apostle to realize that by appealing for a trial before the Emperor he could get the Roman Soldiers to provide him with an escorted trip to Rome.

Not only had Paul's plan actually gotten him to Rome, it was working in its higher purpose to successfully share the good news of salvation through faith in Jesus, the carpenter of Nazareth. The missionary, Paul, said it this way, "so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard, and to every one else, that my imprisonment is in the cause of Christ." Philippians 1:13 (HCSB).

The Imperial Guard is Caesar's own personal body guard. This guard did not have the reputation for being thoughtful of prisoners. But Paul considered these guards a captive audience for his preaching.

Paul felt like his imprisonment built confidence in other Christians around him to dare to speak freely about Christ. "Most of the brothers in the Lord have gained confidence from my

imprisonment and dare even more to speak the message fearlessly," Philippians 1:14 (HCSB). Christianity has often grown in times of persecution. We should speak freely and boldly about Christ and the "Joy" available to anyone who places their faith in Him. Paul says he is eager to boldly share the Gospel. Here are his words, "My eager expectation and hope is that I will not be ashamed about anything, but that now as always, with all boldness, Christ will be highly honored in my body; whether by life or by death. For me, living is Christ and dying is gain." Philippians 1:20-21 (HCSB).

Persecution of Christians around the world is widespread and probably worse than any other time in history. But for us in America, Satan more often intimates with fears other than physical torture. Satan's attacks are still real and we must be ready to face his attacks and still share with joy.

An example of the real danger faced by American Christians is portrayed

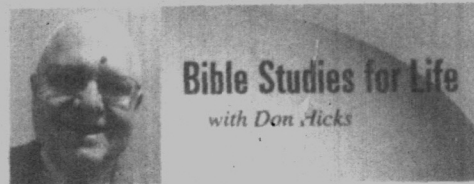
in the movie "God's Not Dead." In this movie Josh, a college freshman, is intimidated by his Philosophy professor, Professor Radisson, to sign a statement at the beginning of class that God is Dead. Professor Radisson is a committed atheist who demands all of the students in his large lecture class admit that God is Dead.

When Josh is the only student in the class that does not agree to forgo the "dusty arguments" for God's existence, Professor Radisson threatens his grades, his academic future, and assigns him the extra assignment of presenting arguments to the class for the existence of God. Then the professor gives everyone else an extra reading assignment to prepare for this debate.

Josh faces intensifying intimidation from the professor, his girl friend, and others to just compromise and sign the statement that God is dead. But Josh persists in preparing the presentations on his claim God is Not Dead. Students, teachers, local officials, preachers, chaplains, etc. face real pressure to not openly share the Joy of Jesus' love and the Gospel.

Will you share the Gospel with boldness?

Hicks is associational missions director for Jasper Association in Bay Springs.





"WILLIAM CAREY
UNIVERSITY IS
GOD'S SCHOOL."

- MILTON WHEELER

WILLIAM CAREY
WILL REBUILD
FOR GOD'S GLORY



TELL SOMEONE

what Jesus has done for you!

2017 STATE EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

NORTHCREST BAPTIST CHURCH, MERIDIAN
JANUARY 29-30, 2017

JANUARY 29

6:00 p.m.

Praise and Worship - Paul Davis, Northcrest Baptist Church, Meridian
Kevin Hamm, Gardendale First Baptist Church, Gardendale, AL

JANUARY 30

Monday Morning

9:15 - 9:30 a.m.
9:30 - 9:40 a.m.
9:40 - 10:25 a.m.
10:25 - 10:40 a.m.
10:40 - 11:30 a.m.
11:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Praise and Worship - Paul Davis
Welcome
Clarence Cooper, Brandon Baptist Church, Brandon, MS
Praise and Worship - Paul Davis
Ted Traylor, Olive Baptist Church, Pensacola, FL
Break for Lunch (on your own)

Monday Afternoon

1:30 - 1:45 p.m.
1:45 - 2:30 p.m.
2:30 - 2:45 p.m.
2:45 - 3:30 p.m.
3:30 - 3:45 p.m.
3:45 - 4:30 p.m.
4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Praise and Worship - Paul Davis
David Burton, David Burton Ministries, Jacksonville, FL
Praise and Worship - Paul Davis
Jeff LaBorg, Fairview Baptist Church, Coryton, TN
Praise and Worship, Paul Davis
Jim Futral, Executive Director/Treasurer, MBCB
Dinner Provided

Monday Evening

6:15 - 6:30 p.m.
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Praise and Worship - Paul Davis
Fred Luter, Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans, LA

Submission Guidelines



The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. **Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted.** Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530, FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.